

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDING REVIEW OFFICE (FHBRO)
HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

FHBRO Number:	96-67
DFRP Number:	06688
Resource Name:	Lockstation Cabin No. 8
Address:	Chambly Canal, Québec
Construction:	1906-1909
Original Function:	Shelter, storage space and workstation for the lockmaster
Current Function:	—
Custodian:	Parks Canada
FHBRO Status:	Recognized Federal Heritage Building

Reasons for Designation

Lockstation Cabin No. 8 has been designated as a “Recognized” building primarily because of its architectural qualities and environmental significance.

Historical Value

Lockstation Cabin No. 8, along with the other cabins and works on Chambly Canal, evokes the days when the canal was a major commercial route for the Québec logging industry. The cabin also recalls the years when the canal was a source of employment for the local community. Lockstation Cabin No. 8 is part of the Canal-de-Chambly National Historic Site of Canada.

Architectural Value

This charming wooden cabin illustrates the desire among authorities to beautify the Chambly Canal in keeping with the spirit of the “City Beautiful” movement that marked the turn of the 20th century. Its eclectic look draws on Queen Anne design vocabulary, a style that had then a considerable impact on domestic architecture. Fine materials and excellent craftsmanship are the reasons why this little dollhouse-like structure is standing to this day.

Environmental Value

This cabin has never been moved from its original site, and its relationship with the canal works, including bridges, locks, the drafting road and the canal itself, has changed very little. Located on a quieter stretch of the canal, it has played a larger symbolic role since the lockmasters’ and bridgekeepers’ houses that once dotted the canal disappeared. This building from a by-gone era and the other small cabins similar to it along the canal make a considerable impression on the many visitors to the park, especially American tourists.

Character-Defining Elements

- The architectural lines of this charming Queen Anne-inspired wooden cabin, such as the complex profile of the steep roof – four gables whose ridges meet in the centre, where the chimney rises; the contrasting textures and colours adorning the wood siding and the resulting compartmented effect; the woodwork detailing in the gables; and the small pediments over the door and windows.
- The symmetrical arrangement of the elevations and the clarity of the architectural concept.
- The elements that illustrate a design driven by the demands of the lockmaster's work; for example, the arrangement of doors and windows allowed the lockmaster to see in all directions.
- Building materials and techniques that have stood a century reflecting the skill and expertise of the artisans involved in the construction of this cabin.
- The relationship between Cabin No. 8 and the site as well as the canal works for which the lockmaster was responsible, and the open space that allowed the lockmaster to keep close watch on the area.
- The “clean” landscaping, which reflects the spirit of beautification of the landscape that led to the construction of this cabin.
- The good visibility of the cabin, which, together with its sister cabins, gives structure to the landscape along the Chambly Canal.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*. For more information, please contact the FHBRO.

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